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AUG 29 1997

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
)
Request of Limited Modification of)
LATA Boundaries to Provide ELCS)
Between the Chester)
Exchange and the Woodville)
Exchange.)

96-159

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

PETITION

I. INTRODUCTION

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT), pursuant to Section 3(25) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,¹ and in accordance with the guidelines established in the Commission's Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) released July 15, 1997 in CC Docket No. 96-159,² hereby makes application for a limited modification of LATA boundaries to provide ELCS between the Chester exchange and the Woodville exchange.

II. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

As prescribed in paragraph 23 of the aforementioned Commission MO&O, SWBT provides the following information in support of its application:

1. Type of service: Flat-rate, non-optional Expanded Local Calling (ELC);
2. Direction of service: Two-way;

¹ The Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. *et al.*

² Memorandum Opinion and Order, Petitions for Limited Modification of LATA Boundaries to Provide Expanded Local Calling Service at Various Locations, CC Docket No. 96-159, released July 15, 1997. By way of this MO&O the Commission adopted a format for and criteria under which such petitions would be granted. The format and criteria are detailed in paragraphs 23 and 24.

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3. Exchanges involved: Chester in the Houston, TX LATA and Woodville in the Beaumont, TX LATA;
4. Name of carriers: Chester of Eastex Telephone Company and Woodville of Southwestern Bell Telephone;
5. State commission approval(s): See Attachment A;
6. Number of access lines or customers: The Chester exchange has 419 access lines, and the Woodville exchange has 4,506 access lines;
7. Usage data: Usage data is not available to Southwestern Bell Telephone. SWBT does not currently carry traffic across LATA boundaries;
8. Poll results: Percentage of Chester customers returning ballots who voted in favor of ELC to Woodville: 86.20. Where SWBT is the petitioning exchange, there is no proposed rate increase. Where SWBT is not the petitioning exchange, SWBT does not have information as to any proposed rate increase.
9. Community of interest statement: The Public Utility Commission of Texas includes a Community of Interest Finding in their Order(s). See Attachment A.
10. Map: See Attachment B; and,
11. Other pertinent information: None

III. PRIMA FACIE SHOWING

SWBT believes that it has made a *prima facie* case supporting grant of the proposed modification because the instant ELCS petition (1) has been approved by the state commission; (2) proposes only traditional local service (i.e., flat-rate, non-optional ELCS); (3) indicates that the state commission found a sufficient community of interest to warrant such service; (4) documents this community of interest through such evidence as poll results and descriptions of the communities involved; and, (5) involves a limited number of customers or

access lines. These requirements for a *prima facie* case are detailed in the aforementioned Commission MO&O paragraph 24.

IV. CONCLUSION

Wherefore, SWBT request that the Commission approve its application for a limited modification of LATA boundaries to provide ELCS between the Chester exchange and the Woodville exchange.

Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

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AUGUST 29, 1997

DOCKET NO. 13324

SHEET 1

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL § PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
 CALLING SERVICE FROM THE JARRELL §
 EXCHANGE TO THE EXCHANGE OF § OF TEXAS
 BARTLETT §

ORDER NO. 9

DOCKET NO. 13435

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL § PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
 CALLING SERVICE FROM THE ALBA §
 EXCHANGE TO THE EXCHANGE OF § OF TEXAS
 MINEOLA §

ORDER NO. 8

DOCKET NO. 13486

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL § PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
 CALLING SERVICE FROM THE BOGATA §
 EXCHANGE TO THE EXCHANGE OF § OF TEXAS
 MT. PLEASANT §

ORDER NO. 9

DOCKET NO. 13498

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL § PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
 CALING SERVICE FROM THE §
 BROWNSBORO-EDOM EXCHANGE TO THE § OF TEXAS
 EXCHANGES OF LINDALE, MINEOLA, §
 OWENTOWN AND TYLER §

~~ORDER NO. 10~~

DOCKET NO. 13556

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL § PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
 CALLING SERVICE FROM THE CHESTER §
 EXCHANGE TO THE EXCHANGE OF § STATE OF TEXAS
 WOODVILLE §

ORDER NO. 7

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DOCKET NO. 13324
DOCKET NO. 13435
DOCKET NO. 13486
DOCKET NO. 13498
DOCKET NO. 13556
DOCKET NO. 13649

ORDER NO. 9
ORDER NO. 8
ORDER NO. 9
ORDER NO. 10
ORDER NO. 7
ORDER NO. 10

ATTACHMENT A
SHEET 1

DOCKET NO. 13649

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
CALLING SERVICE FROM THE FROST	§	
EXCHANGE TO THE EXCHANGE OF	§	OF TEXAS
HILLSBORO	§	

ORDER NO. 10
UNABATING AND DIRECTING LOCAL EXCHANGE COMPANY
TO FILE FOR LIMITED MODIFICATION

On July 28, 1997, the Commission Staff recommended that, in light of the recent Federal Communications Commission (FCC) order addressing the procedures for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWBT) to request limited modifications of local access and transport area (LATA) boundaries for the provision of expanded local calling service (ELCS), that these applications be unabated. A community of interest has previously been established in these cases and a waiver request was filed by SWBT with the Department of Justice under the *Modified Final Judgment*. Therefore, these applications are unabated.

Within thirty days of the effective date of this order, SWBT shall file a request for limited modification of the LATA boundary in accordance with the procedures outlined *In the Matter of Petitions for Limited Modification of LATA Boundaries to Provide Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) at Various Locations*, CC Docket No. 96-159, FCC 97-244, (rel. July 15, 1997) *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, §§ 23 & 24.

DOCKET NO. 13433
DOCKET NO. 13486
DOCKET NO. 13498
DOCKET NO. 13556
DOCKET NO. 13649

ORDER NO. 8
ORDER NO. 9
ORDER NO. 10
ORDER NO. 7
ORDER NO. 10

ATTACHMENT A
SHEET 3

Additionally, within 10 days of the receipt of orders or notices from the FCC relating to these petitions, SWBT shall file such orders or notices with the Commission.



**ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT
ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS
ON THE 30th DAY OF JULY, 1997**

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DOCKET NO. 13556

PETITION FOR EXPANDED LOCAL
CALLING SERVICE FROM THE
CHESTER EXCHANGE TO THE
WOODVILLE EXCHANGE§
§
§
§
§PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF TEXAS**INTERIM ORDER**

On behalf of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) finds that this docket is based on a evidentiary record and has been processed in accordance with applicable statutes and Commission rules. There were no disputed issues in this petition.

The following findings of fact and conclusions of law are **ADOPTED**:

Findings of Fact

1. The expanded toll-free local calling service (ELCS) petition that is the subject of this Interim Order request non-optional "to and from calling" between the Chester Exchange and the Woodville Exchange.
2. The processes for petitioning and balloting included notice that the service would have a fee of up to \$3.50 for residential and \$7.00 for business customers on a non-optional basis.
3. Judge Harold H. Greene established the LATA boundaries for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWB) in the Modified Final Judgment, *United States v. AT&T*, 552 F. Supp. 131 (D.D.C. 1982) and *United States v. Western Elec. Co., Inc.*, 569 F.Supp. 990 (D.D.C. 1983), and for GTE Southwest, Inc. and Contel of Texas, Inc. (collectively GTE) in the Decree, *United States v. GTE Corp.*, 1985-1 Trade Cas (CCH) §66,355 (D.D.C. 1985). (The collective orders of Judge Greene will hereinafter be referred to as MFJ.)

4. A LATA is a geographic area in which SWB and GTE can provide telecommunication services within its boundaries. In the MFJ, Judge Greene restricted the two local exchange carriers from providing interLATA transport. In order for the companies to span the LATA boundaries established by the MFJ, they must obtain a waiver from Judge Greene.
5. Judge Greene has relied upon the following issues for SWB or GTE to obtain a waiver of the MFJ: impact on competition; whether the calling plan has the attributes of a long distance toll call; and whether a community of interest exist between the two exchanges.
6. On October 19, 1993, the Commission amended P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49 by adding a section pertaining to ELCS in accordance with Senate Bill 632, (Act of May 11, 1993, 73rd Leg. R.S., ch.271, 1993 Tex. Sess. Law Serv. 1276 (Vernon)(to be codified as an amendment to TEX. REV. CIV. STAT ANN., Art. 1446c, § 93A) and § 93A of the Public Utility Regulatory Act (PURA), Tex. Rev. Civ. Stat Ann. art. 1446c (Vernon Supp. 1994). The rule became effective on December 7, 1993.
7. The statute and the rule referred to in Finding of Fact No. 6 provide certain requirements for petitioning exchanges to meet in order to receive ELCS. One such requirement is a showing of a community of interest.
8. In recommending approval of various waivers before Judge Greene, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has relied upon an affirmative finding of the Public Utility Commission of Texas that a community of interest exists, often based on a vote of the responding subscribers and whether the two exchanges share such needs as local governments, employment; shopping, and use of educational and medical services.
9. The Commission contemplated interLATA waivers in adopting P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(c); thus, it was aware of issues relating to the implications of an interLATA boundary application when adopting the rule.
10. An affirmative vote of 70 percent of the subscribers responding to the ballot is necessary for an ELCS petition to proceed at the Commission. The percentage of affirmative votes from those

subscribers returning ballots is a compelling showing of a community of interest. This factor can and should be considered with the same weight as other factors, such as the sharing of local government, schools, employment, and commercial centers.

11. On May 12 1994, the Chester Exchange filed a petition for ELCS between it and various exchanges, including the Woodville Exchange.

12. The Chester Exchange is served by Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Eastex), and it is in the Houston LATA. The Woodville Exchange is served by SWB, and is in the Beaumont LATA.

13. The parties to the proceeding were the petitioning Chester Exchange, Eastex, SWB, and General Counsel. A hearing on the merits was not held because there are no contested issues. There is no statutory deadline for this proceeding.

14. The Chester Exchange is contiguous with the Woodville Exchange.

15. An affirmative vote of 86.2 percent of those subscribers that voted in the balloting favored expanding local calling scope of the Chester Exchange to the Woodville Exchange.

16. The town of Woodville is the county seat of Tyler County, in which Chester is located. The Woodville Exchange provides the sheriff's office, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Health Department, Health and Human Resources, Tyler County courthouse, Tyler County Appraisal District, Tyler County Chamber of Commerce, Tyler County Fireman's Association, and all county emergency responses.

17. The Tyler County Hospital is located in the Woodville Exchange. The hospital is used by the citizens of the Chester Exchange. In addition, the physicians and dentists serving the Chester Exchange are located in the Woodville Exchange. All emergency medical services for the Chester Exchange are located in the Woodville Exchange.

18. A portion of the Chester Exchange is within the Woodville Independent School District. Ninety-five percent of the citizens of the Chester Exchange are either employed in Woodville or have children in day cares or schools within the Woodville Exchange. Citizens in the Chester Exchange use local banking institutions, major businesses, places for employment, schools, firefighters, grocers, and merchants in the Woodville Exchange.

19. There is a community of interest between the Chester Exchange and the Woodville Exchange. The exchanges are contiguous. In addition, the petitioners proved a community of interest with the Woodville Exchange in the following ways: affirmative vote of the subscribers returning ballots; commonality as commercial, employment, emergency, and medical centers; commonality of school districts; and commonality of local government.

20. No issues of law or fact are disputed by any party.

21. No hearing on the merits or Commission action is necessary and administrative review is warranted.

Conclusions of Law

1. The Commission has jurisdiction in this proceeding pursuant to the Public Utility Regulatory Act of 1995, S.B. 319, §§ 1.101, 3.051, 3.151, 3.155, 2.201, 3.251, and 3.304, 74th Leg., R.S. 1995.
2. The standards for community of interest for ELCS in Texas are established in § 3.304(a)(2) of PURA and in P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(c)(3).
3. Pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(c)(11), ELCS petitions filed prior to the adoption of P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(c) must satisfy the criteria contained within the rule.
4. To meet the community of interest standard, P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(c)(3)(B) and § 3.304(a)(2) of PURA require a petitioning exchange to have either a contiguous boundary with the petitioned exchange or require the exchanges covered by the petition to be within a distance of 22 miles

of each other. As established in Finding of Fact No. 15, the petitioning exchange satisfies the requirement.

5. P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(c)(3)(C) provides that if the exchanges are greater than 22 miles apart, but less than 50 miles, the petitioners must show a community of interest through schools, hospitals, local governments, business centers, or other relationships so that, without ELCS, a hardship on the residents of the petitioning exchange would occur.

6. An ELCS docket that has the two exchanges within 22 miles of each other or which are contiguous to each other constitutes a *per se* showing of community of interest. Judge Greene requires, however, a greater showing of community of interest in order to grant a waiver of the MFJ; thus, the Commission shall address additional findings of a community of interest between the exchanges in this type of proceeding.

7. A community of interest standard similar to P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(b)(2) is not applicable to proceedings involving ELCS.

8. The standards contained within § 3.304(a)(2) of PURA and P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(c)(3)(B) apply to both contested and uncontested ELCS proceedings.

9. P.U.C. SUBST. R. 23.49(c)(5)(D)(ii) and § 3.304 of PURA require an affirmative vote of at least 70 percent of those subscribers returning ballots to establish a community of interest. The statute and rule do not require an affirmative vote of at least 70 percent of all subscribers in the exchange.

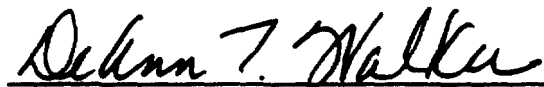
10. This petition does not constitute a major rate proceeding as defined by P.U.C. PROC. R. 22.2.

11. All requirements for administrative review under P.U.C. PROC. R. 22.32(a) have been satisfied; therefore, the proposed petition may be approved by a Hearings Officer under the administrative review provisions of P.U.C. PROC. R. 22.32 as authorized by § 1.101(d) of PURA.

In accordance with the findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Commission issues the following Interim Order:

1. The petitioners in the petition filed by the Chester Exchange for expanded local calling service to the Woodville Exchange have shown a community of interest between the exchanges.
2. Within thirty (30) days of this Interim Order, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (SWB) is **DIRECTED** to file a request for a waiver of the Modified Final Judgment with the Department of Justice or Judge Harold H. Greene, as appropriate.
3. Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the ruling by Judge Greene, SWB is **DIRECTED** to file Judge Greene's judgment in this docket.
4. This Interim Order is effective September 15, 1995.

Respectfully submitted,



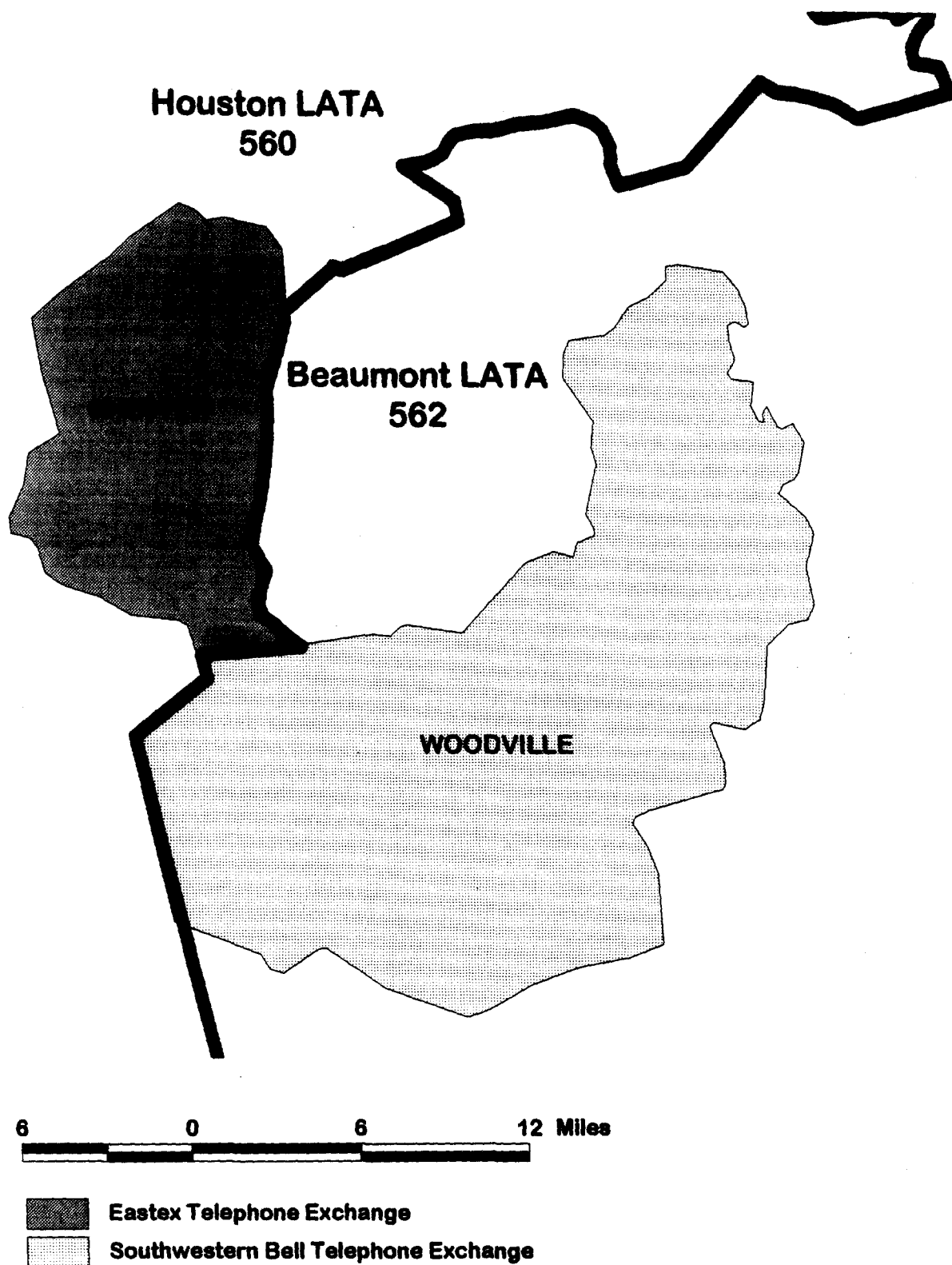
DEANN T. WALKER
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

APPROVED this 25th day of August 1995.



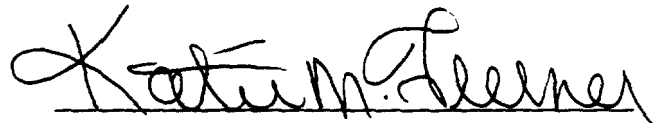
STEPHEN J. DAVIS
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEARINGS

Chester To Woodville



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Katie M. Turner, hereby certify that the foregoing, "PETITION OF SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY" in Docket No. 96-159 has been filed this 29th day of August, 1997 to the Parties of Record.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Katie M. Turner", written over a horizontal line.

Katie M. Turner

August 29, 1997

Texas Public Utility Commission
1701 North Congress
Austin, Texas 78701